ISSN 0966 – 7059

YSG

Jugopošta

Journal of

The Yugoslavia Study Group

www.yugosg.org



Number 140 December 2021

The Yugoslavia Study Group

Founded in 1984 to promote the study of the stamps and postal history of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states

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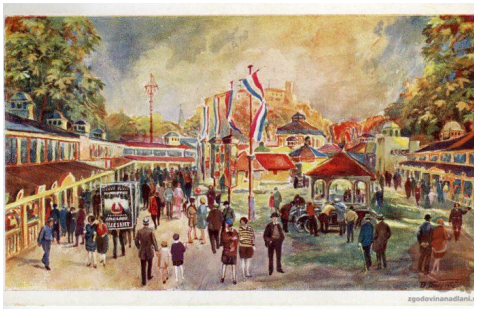
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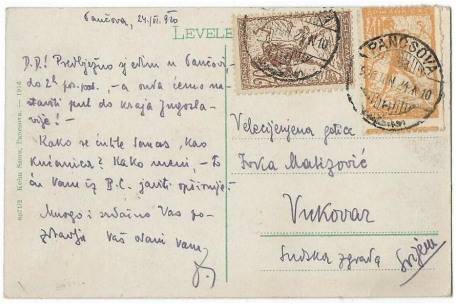
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Jugopošta





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From the President

Once again I am appealing on behalf of the Society for someone to take over the role of Auctioneer. This is a vital post which enables members to circulate their surplus material, and to acquire new material for their own collections. If there is a volunteer please contact me by telephone or email.

I hope next year will be a virus free time, when we can socialise freely again. On behalf of the committee I wish you all a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year. As well as, of course, a good collecting year.

A J Bosworth FRPSL

From the Membership Secretary/Treasurer

Membership. Please note that membership fees for 2022 are now due. We have had to make slight increases in our fees for printed membership for overseas readers following Royal Mail's price increases last year, but we have managed to maintain UK fees at the previous level for this year.

We also have a **special offer on electronic membership** this year, with a 10% saving if fees are paid before the end of January, reduced from £10 to £9 for the year.

Details of membership fees and how to pay are shown inside the front cover of this issue.

From the Editor

As I start to type these words it has occurred to me that this is the 40th edition of Jugopošta that I have edited, since I took over from Geoff Barling to produce JP101 in March 2012. Tony Bosworth had rung me about 6 months earlier to ask me if I fancied taking over as Editor as Geoff wanted to retire from it after he had produced the 100th edition. I thought about it for a bit and then somewhat apprehensively agreed to do it. I was retired by then and had plenty of experience in using Microsoft Word at work, but producing a 32 page journal was a different kettle of fish. I had a short handover with Geoff but pretty much had to learn on the job. For the first few editions, I kept finding strange changes of font when it was printed and it took me a while to figure that out. Anyway, I would like to thank all the authors (some of whom are no longer with us) that have contributed to these 40 editions, without whom nothing would have been published.

In this edition you will find the first part of an article by Roger Morrell on the Bulgarian occupation of Serbia (1915 – 18). This is based on a presentation by Roger at one of our Zoom meetings and many of those present agreed that they had never seen any of this type of material before. There are also short articles by Boštjan Petauer, Veselko Guštin and an interesting question and answer. You will also find details of another Zoom meeting to be held on 2 March.

The Bulgarian Occupation of Serbia, 1915-18 – A Review – Part 1

by Roger Morrell

1. Background

The successful collaboration between Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece during the first Balkan War in 1912 in removing Ottoman governance of Macedonia left them in a position where they could not agree over territorial gains. In the short second Balkan War in June 1913, Bulgaria attacked Serbia and was defeated at the Battle of Bregalnitsa[1] while Romania took the opportunity to occupy the Dobrudja peninsula. Bulgaria signed the Treaty of Bucharest as a defeated state, and made no significant territorial gains in Macedonia, which was split between Greece and Serbia apart from the creation of the new state of Albania by the Great Powers.

After the Sarajevo incident the following year, Serbia, which had hardly recovered militarily, found it defending itself against the might of the Austro-Hungarian Empire attempting retribution. The initial attacks led by Austrian General Potiorek resulted in the evacuation of Belgrade and parts of northern Serbia, but a counterattack by the Serbs in November 1914 drove the Austro-Hungarian army out of the country, liberating Belgrade on 2 December 1914. Preparations for a new invasion began immediately, this time with German assistance. Kaiser Ferdinand of Bulgaria was persuaded to join the Axis powers to help with the attacks, bolstered an offer of German assistance to bring his army back to full strength after the Balkan War defeat. His country was already indebted to Germany, reliant on a huge loan from German banks to get it back on an even keel after the Balkan Wars. Another key driver in this must have been an aching desire to fulfil Bulgaria's centuries-old dream of extending its territory into Macedonia in which there were many resident Bulgarian speakers, plus the promised recovery of Dobrudja. It entered into a secret alliance with the Axis Powers on 6 September 1915 (Figure 1), mobilised its army of over 600,000 men on 22 September, and on 14 October, declared war on Serbia and crossed the border into Serbia, the Austrians and Germans having already commenced their offensive on 6 October. By 27 October the forces met up in northern Serbia (Figure 2).

Within three weeks, half of Serbia was occupied, pushing the Serbian army towards the southwest. On 5 November, Niš fell to the Bulgarians (Figure 3). On 23 November, Priština was taken by a joint force of German and Bulgarian units, and a general Serbian army retreat towards Albania commenced. By 4 December, the Bulgarians had reached Bitolja, Lake Ohrid and the Greek border, where they were told to halt. By 11 December, they had pushed a small French/British advance north from Thessaloniki back to that city, achieving their objective of the complete occupation of Serbia and Northern Macedonia within two months of entering the war (Figure 4). Until September 1918, the Macedonian Front was essentially one of stalemate between the Allied Powers (Britain, France, Italy, the reconstituted exiled Serbian army, and at times Russia and Greece) and the Axis Powers along its entire length, give or take small gains and losses.

[1] The Macedonian river Bregalnitsa is a tributary of the Vardar, and begins near the Bulgarian border, passing through the towns of Berovo and Schtip. The battle itself took place all along the river valley from Krivolak to Kochani, a linear distance of some 60 km.



Figure 1: *German postcard: "Bulgaria with us!"*



Figure 2: *Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian forces meeting at Kladovo on 27 October 1915 as a drawing on the picture side of a Bulgarian Red Cross charity card issued in Hungary.*

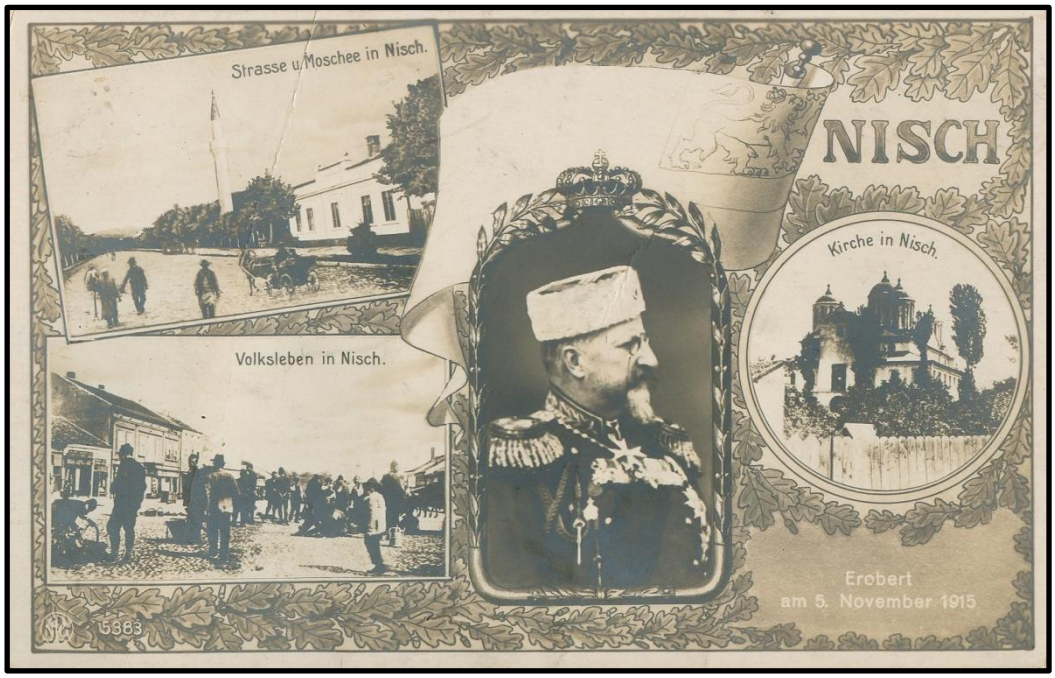


Figure 3: *German postcard celebrating the Bulgarian conquest of Nisch/Niš on 5 November 1915.*

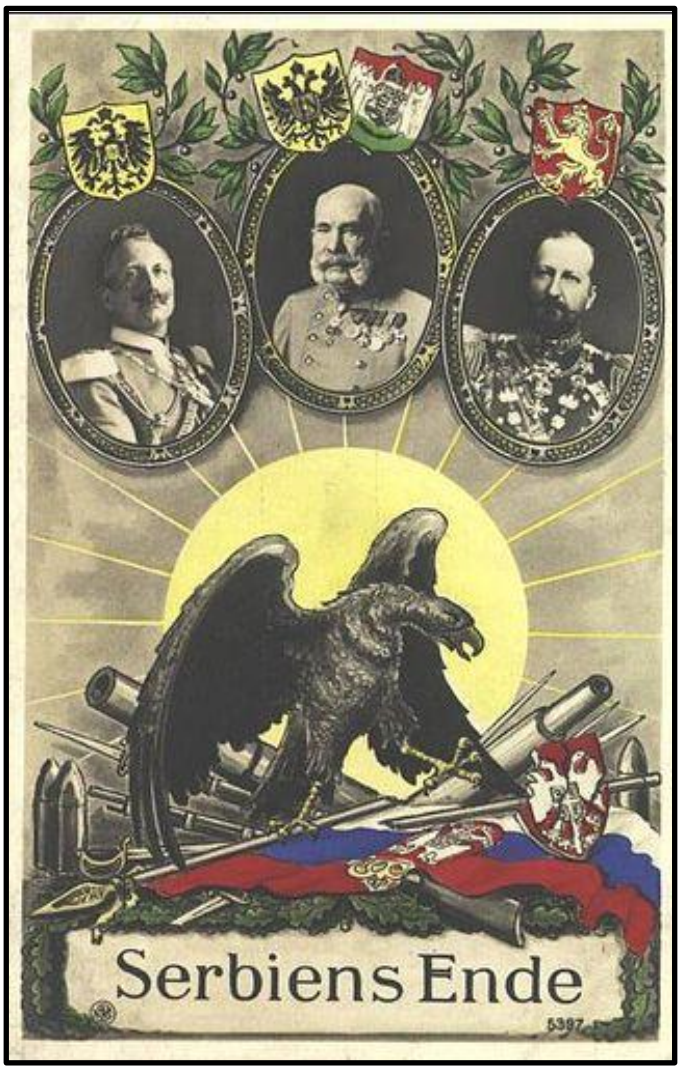


Figure 4: *German postcard: "Serbia's end".*

2. This article

The purpose of this article on the short-lived Bulgarian occupation and its poorly recognised short period of postal history is to bring together and update in colour some previously published work [1-7] that is accessible to this author, and to expand the range of material covered.

3. Postal operations

From the postal point of view occupied Serbia/Macedonia was split into two parts. The western half, including Belgrade, was primarily occupied by Austria-Hungary. In the eastern section under Bulgarian/German occupation, Bulgarian public post office services were set up in some 90 [1] known towns (Table 1), in some cases as early as the first week of November 1915. Mail was generally franked with Bulgarian stamps, which were cancelled with Bulgarian style single-ring bilingual Cyrillic/Roman town name datestamps (Figure 5). In some places a dateless double-ring Bulgarian lion rampant cachet reading ТЕЛЕГРАФО– ПОЩЕСКА-СТАЦИЯ (Telegraph-postal-station) and town name (Figure 6) was used, perhaps provisionally before a datestamp could be supplied. Specific money order datestamps reading (ИЗДАВНЕ) ПОЩ. ЗАПИСИ and town name were also used in three offices: Niš, Zaječar, and Skopje, and occasionally used on letters [1] (Figure 7). The service was set up principally to facilitate the sending of mail back to Bulgaria, but was also used by the local population to send messages to prisoners of war and to the Red Cross seeking information on missing persons and, mostly philatelically it seems, by German forces writing home. The occupying armies also had their own fieldpost services, but that for Bulgarian army personnel seemingly being passed into the civilian postal service for delivery to the homeland. Such mail was usually stampless, bearing a unit cachet as a mark of censorship, but often also a civilian dated postmark.



Figure 5: *Schtip, datestamp.*



Figure 6: *Post-station, Gradište.*



Figure 7: *Money order, Zaječar.*

Table 1: Known Bulgarian post offices in occupied Serbia (from ref. [1])

Modern name	Cyrillic name	French (Romanized) name	Opening date
Aleksinac	АЛЕКСИНЕЦЪ	ALEXINETZ (2 types)	24. XI. 1915
Babušnica	БАБУШНИЦА	BABOUCHNITZA	14. V. 1916
Bela Palanka	БЕЛА ПАЛАНКА	BELA-PALANKA	14. XI. 1915
Berovo	БЕРОВО	BEROVO	30. XII. 1915
Bitolj	БИТОЛЯ	BITOL1A	30. XII. 1915
Boljevac	БОЛЕВАЦЪ	BOLEVATZ	1. I. 1916
Bor	МИНА-БОРЪ	MINA-BOR	20. III. 1916
Brza Palanka	БРЗА ПАЛАНКА	BARZA-PALANKA	2. XI. 1915
Brod	БРОДЪ	BROD	23. III. 1916
Bujanovce	БОЯНОВЦИ	BOIANOVTZI	-
Valandovo	ВАЛАНДОВО	VALANDOVO	22. III. 1916
Veles	ВЕЛЕСЪ	WELES	8. XI. 1915
Vladičin Han	ВЛАДИШКИ ХАНОВО	VLADICHKI HANOVE	16. XII. 1915
Vlasotinci	ВЛАСОТИНЦИ	VLASOT1NTZI	24. XI. 1915
Vranje	ВРАНЯ	WRANYA (2 types)	13. XI. 1915
Galičnik	ГАЛИЧНИКЪ	GALITCHNIK	-
Giljane	ГИЛЯНИ	GILIANI	9. XII. 1915
Golubac	ГОЛУБЕЦЪ	GOLOUBETZ	3. V. 1916
Gostivar	ГОСТИВАРЪ	GOSTIVAR	2. XII. 1915
Gradište Veliko	ГОЛЪМО ГРАДИЩЕ	GOLEMO GRADICHTE	22. III. 1916
Gradsko	ГРАДСКО	GRADSKO	22. III. 1916
Debar	ДЕБРЪ	DEB……	30. XII. 1915
Demir Kapija	ДЕМИР КАПИ	DEMIR KAPI	22. III. 1916
Despotovac	ДЕСПОТОВЕЦЪ	DESPOTOVETZ	10. VII. 1916
(2 types)	ДЕСПОТОВО	DESPOTOVO	-
Dojran	ДОИРАНЪ	……	23. III. 1916
Drenovo	ГАРА ДРЕНОВО (Мак.)	DRENOVO GARE	14. XII. 1915
Dubravica	ДАБРАВИЦА	DABRAV1TZA	20. XII. 1915
Devdelija	ГЕВГЕЛИ	DJEVDJELIYA	30. XII. 1915
Žabare	ЖАБАРЕ	JABARE	31. III. 1916
Žagubica	ЖАГБИЦА	JAGUBITZA	20. III. 1916
Zajecar	ЗАИЧАРЪ	ZAYTCHAR	8. XI. 1915
Kavadarci	КАВАДАРЦИ	KAVAD ARTZI	30. XII. 1915
Kačanik	КАЧАНКЪ	KA……..	24. XI. 1915
Kičevo	КИЧЕВЕВО	KITCHEVO	30. XII. 1915
Kladovo	КЛАДОВО	KLADOVO	23. III. 1916
Knjaževac	КНЯЖЕВЕЦЪ	KNIAJEVETZ	13. XI. 1915
Kočane	КОЧАНЕ	KOTCHANE	5. XI. 1915
Kraljevo Selo	КРАЛЕВО СЕЛО	KRALEVO-SELO	22. V. 1916
Kratovo	КРАТОВО	KRATOVO	2. XI. 1915
Kriva Palanka	КРИВОРЪЦНА ПАЛАНКА	KRIVORECHNA PALANKA	24. X. 1915
Krivolak	КРИВОЛАКЪ	KRIVOLAK GARE	-
Kruševo	КРУШЕВО	KROUCHEVO	13. I. 1916
Kumanovo	КУМАНОВО	KOUMANOVO	2. XI. 1915
Kuršumlija	КУРШУМЛИ	KOURCHOUMLI	24. XI. 1915
Kučevo	КУЧЕВО	KOUTCHEVO	31. III. 1916
Lebane	ЛІЕБАНЕ	LEBINE	14. V. 1916
Leskovac	ЛЪСКОВЕЦЪ-МОРАВСКО	LESKOVETZ MORAWA	24. XI. 1915
Mavrovi Hanovi	МАВРОВИ ХАНОВЕ	MAVROVI HANOVE	22. V. 1916
Majdan pek	МАИДЕНПЕКЪ	MAIDENPEK	22. V. 1916
Milanovac Donji	ДОЛНИ МИЛАНОВЦ	DOLNI MILANOVETZ	22. III. 1916
Negotin (2 types) {	НЕГОТИНЪ	NEGOTINE	27. X. 1915
	НЕГОТИНЪ МОРАВСКО	NEGOTIN MORAVSKO	-
Negotin Vardar	НЕГОТИНЪ (ВАДАРСКО)	NEGOTIN (VARDARSKO)	30. XII. 1915
Niš	НИШЪ	NISCH (2 types)	24. XI. 1915
Novo Selo	НОВО СЕЛО	NOVO SELO (STR.)	20. III. 1916

Table 1 (cont.): Known Bulgarian post offices in occupied Serbia (from ref. [1])

Modern name	Cyrillic name	French (Romanized) name	Opening date
Orahovac	РАХОВИЦА	RAHO…….	3. V. 1916
Ohrid	ОХРИДЪ	OCHRIDE	30. XII. 1915
Paraćin	ПАРЧИНЪ	PARATCHIN	…. III. 1916
Petrovac	ПЕТРОВЕЦЪ	PETROVETZ	23. III. 1916
Pehčevo	ПЕХЧЕВО	PECHEVO	8. XI. 1915
Pirot	ПИРОТЪ	PIROTE	8. XI. 1915
	ПИРОТЪ	PIROT	-
Pletvar	ПЛЪТВАРЪ	PLETVAR	-
Podujevo	ПОДУЕВО	POD…….	4. VII. 1916
	ПОЖАРЕВАЦЪ	POSAREVATZ	20. III. 1916
Požarevac (3 types)	ПОЖАРЕВО	POJAREBO (with incorrect spelling B instead of V)	-
	ПОЖАРЕВЕЦЪ	POJAREVETZ	-
Prahovo	ПРАХОВО	PRAHOVO	5. XI. 1915
Preševo	ГАРА ПРЪШЕВО	PRECHOWO GARE	30. XII. 1915
Prizren	ПРИЗРЕПЪ	PRIZREN	30. XII. 1915
Prilep	ПРИЛПЪ	PRILEP	9. XII. 1915
	ПРИЛПЪ	PRILEPE	-
Priština	ПРИЩИНА	PRISCHTINA (2 types)	30. XII. 1915
Prokuplje	ПРОКУПЛЕ	PROKOUPLE (2 types)	24. XI. 1915
Prćilovica	ПРЖИЛОВИЧА	P……...	14. V. 1916
Radoyiste	РАДОВИЩЬ	RADOVICH	24. XI. 1915
Radujevac	РАДУЕВАЦЪ	RADOUEVATZ	2. XI. 1915
Ražanj	РАЖАНЪ	RAJAN	….III. 1916
Resan	РЕСЕНЪ	RESEN	30. XI. 1915
Salaš	САЛАШЪ	SALACH	13. VI. 1916
Sveti Nikola	СВ. НИКОЛА	SV. NIKOLA	30. XII. 1915
Svilajnac	СВИЛЕНАЦЪ	SVILENATZ (2 types)	23. III. 1916
Svrljig	ДЕРВЕНТЪ	DERVENT	31. III. 1916
Skoplje	СКОПИЕ	SKOPIE (2 types)	8. XI. 1915
Sokobanja	СОКО БАПЯ	SOKO BANYA	3. XII. 1915
Struga	СТРУГА	STR……	13. I. 1916
Suva Reka	СУХА-РЕКА	SOUHA REKA	14. V. 1916
Surdulica	СУРДДУЛИЦА	S…….	3. V. 1916
Tekija	ТЕКИЯ	TEKIA	22. III. 1916
Tetovo	ТЕТОВО	TETOVO	14. XI. 1915
Ćuprija	КЮПРИЯ	KIUPRIA	30. III. 1916
Udovo	УДОВО	……	22. III. 1916
Ferizovic	ФЕРИЗОВО	……	9. XII. 1915
Carevo Selo	ЦАРЕВО СЕЛО	TZAREVOSELO	24. X. 1915
Stip	ЩИПЪ	SCHTIP	5. XI. 1915

Notes:

1. Incomplete French names are probably a result of either no known cancel, or an incomplete one.

2. Absence of a known date is denoted by a '-'.

3. Strumica seems to be missing from this list, which is surprising for a large centre, considering it had a censorship office. Other post offices may exist but were not known at the time of this table's publication.

4. All Bulgarian occupation post offices would have closed permanently just before or by 30 September 1918 when Bulgaria formally exited WW1. Bitolja was occupied by French troops in November 1916.

5. Ref. [4] notes that the Bulgarians are found to have occasionally used old Serbian marks, such as registration handstamps, and *vice versa*, subsequent to the war Yugoslavia continued to use some old Bulgarian datestamps [3,4], probably on a 'needs must' basis.

6. Bulgaria switched to the Gregorian calendar on 31 March 1916, probably to avoid confusion in joint operations with the Axis Powers, which complicates the understanding of dates.

4. Bulgarian civilian post censor marks

Virtually all civilian and some military mail sent through the Bulgarian post offices appears to have been censored, and bears a censor mark of one form or another, including:

- Crude straight-line or boxed type with various inscriptions
- Large double-ring coat of arms type + Censor Commission + placename
- Single-ring postmark-like type with Censor Commission + placename + date

It is understood [4] that all mail was diverted by the post offices to Censorship Commissions for censoring, and then redelivered to the mail service. The style of the censorship marks changed with time, broadly in the sequence shown above. The change to dated marks, which also occurred throughout Bulgaria itself, is thought to stem from complaints of slow censorship. Table 2 provides more details of the marks, most of which are illustrated in [2] with more details of known use dates. Examples on covers and cards are illustrated below.

Table 2: Bulgarian censor marks in occupied Serbian lands (from ref [2])

Modern name	Bulgarian name	Censor mark types			
		Large DR arms	Small DR arms	Small SR dated	Other
Aleksinac	АЛЕКСИНЕЦЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Veles	ВЕЛЕСЪ	✓	-	✓	Three-line
Vranie	ВРАНЯ	✓	-	✓	-
Zajecar	ЗАИЧАРЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Kavadarci	КАВАДАРЦИ	-	✓	✓	-
Kičevo	КИЧЕВЕВО	✓	-	✓	-
Knjaževac	КНЯЖЕВЕЦЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Kočane	КОЧАНЕ	✓	-	✓	DR ‘censored’
Kriva Palanka	КРИВОРЪЦНА ПАЛАНКА	✓	-		-
Kumanovo	КУМАНОВО	✓	-	✓	-
Ćuprija	КЮПРИЯ	✓	-	✓	-
Leskovac	ЛЪСКОВЕЦЪ-МОРАВСКО	✓	-	✓	-
Negotin	НЕГОТИНЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Niš	НИШЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Ohrid	ОХРИДЪ	✓	-	✓	DR ‘censored’
Paraćin	ПАРЧИНЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Pirot	ПИРОТЪ (ПЕРОТЪ)	✓	-	✓	-
Požarevac	ПОЖАРЕВЕЦЪ	✓	✓(ПОЖАРЕВО)	✓	-
Prizren	ПРИЗРЕПЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Prilep	ПРИЛПЪ	✓	-	✓	Circular dated, no ring
Priština	ПРИЩИНА	✓	-	✓	Circular dated, no ring
Prokuplje	ПРОКУПЛЕ	✓	-	✓	-
Radujevac	РАДУЕВАЦ		-		DR negative
Svilajnac	СВИЛЕНАЦЪ	✓	-	✓	-
Skopje	СКОПИЕ	✓	-	✓ (two types)	DR blank (2 types)
Strumica	СТРУМИЦА	-	-	✓	Negative two-line; DR ‘censored)
Tetovo	ТЕТОВО	✓ (two types)	-	✓	Circular dated, no ring
Carevo Selo	ЦАРЕВО СЕЛО	✓	-	✓	-
Štip	ЩИПЪ	-	✓	✓	DR ‘censored’ Two-line negative

Note: Bitolia (known as having used a large arms censor cachet [5,6]) is missing from this list. Others may exist.

5. Examples of mail within occupied Serbia



Figure 8: *Postal stationery card written from Pozarevetz and addressed to Belgrade, no postmark but censored in Pozarevetz, and again at the K.u.k. Brief- und Paketzensurstelle Zemun, at that time in Hungary administered Croatia.*



Figure 9: *UPU-rate postal stationery card written from Selo Stepance, Veles (Kumanovo would be nearer!) and with a K.u.k. K(riegs)g(e)f(angen) Station 9 cachet at the top, sent to a private address in Belgrade in 'Okup. Serbien'. POW or guard? No censor marks or initials.*

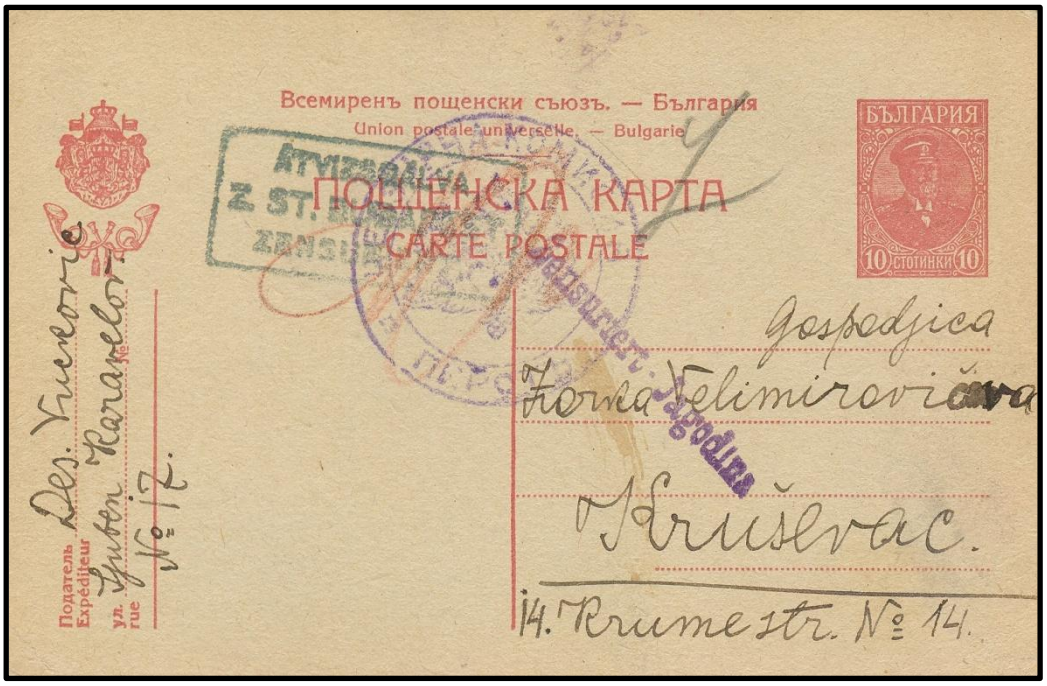


Figure 10: *Similar card written from Karavelov (close to the Bulgarian border) to Kruševac, censored in Pirot (circular arms cachet). Censored again in Budapest (boxed cachet) and for a third time in Jagodina (straight-line Austro-Hungarian cachet in violet, Schilling 001, 30 pts [9].)*

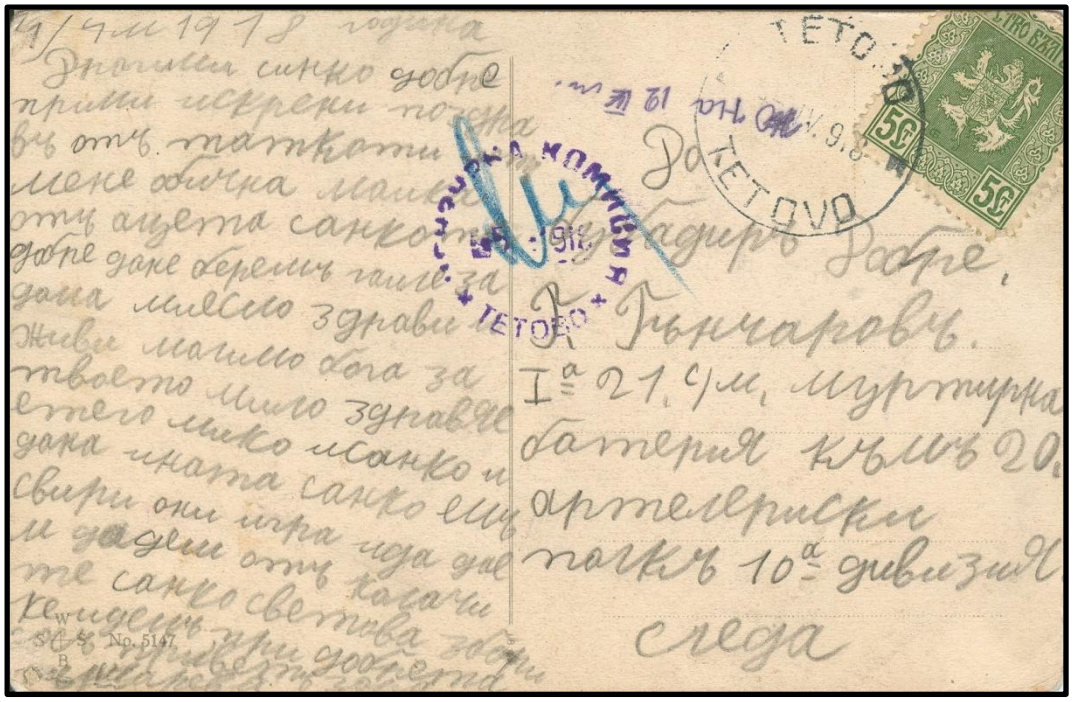


Figure 11: *Picture post franked with a 5 stot stamp and postmarked Tetovo on 4 April 1918. Sent to a serving soldier 'in the field' ('следа'). Ringless dated censor mark of Tetovo.*

6. Examples of mail to and from Bulgaria

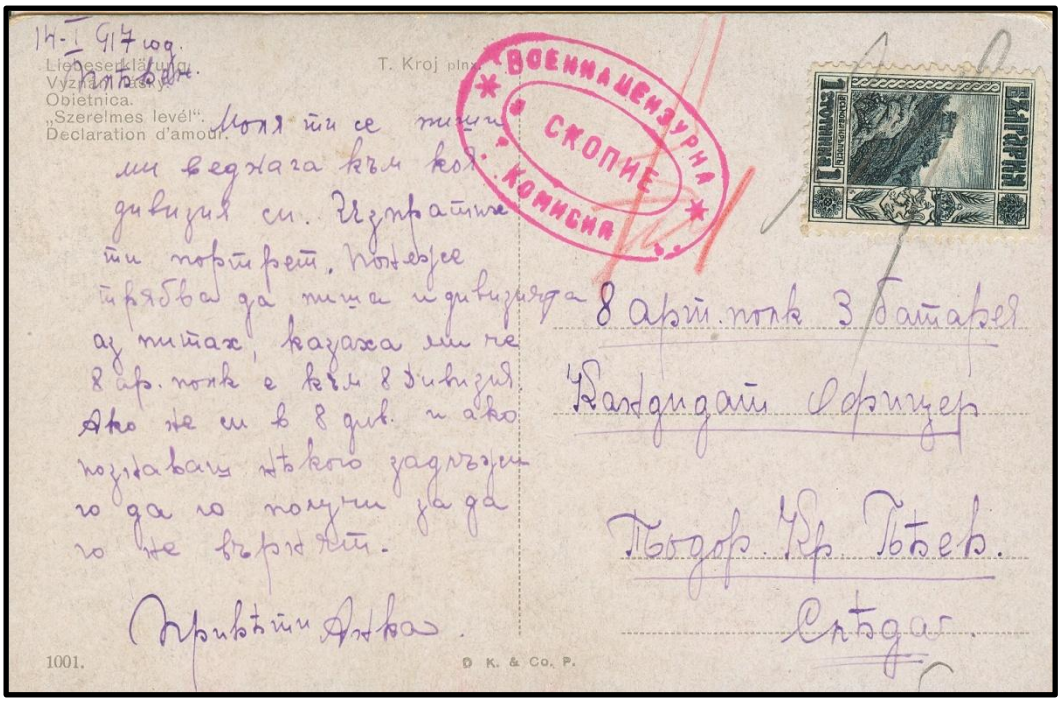


Figure 12: *Incoming picture postcard from Pleven, Bulgaria, to a serving soldier 'in the field' (this time spelt 'сльда'), manuscript dated 14 January 1917. The 1 stot. stamp is unnecessary, no postmark, but an unlisted oval censor cachet of Skopje has been used.*



Figure 13: *Bulgarian postal stationery card on thin stock written on 26.XI and sent from the Strumitsa region to Sofia (arrived 3.XII.915). Censored in Strumitsa, with a crude negative cachet applied, a scarce item.*



Figure 14: *Bulgarian military postal stationery card from the Strumitsa region, sent to Mehomia, Bulgaria, arriving on 18.XII.915. The large double ring 'examined' censor cachet of Strumitsa has been applied in blue.*



Figure 15: *Picture postcard written on 25.XII.1915 and sent to Sofia; postmarkless but censored in Strumitsa with the same cachet as Figure 14.*



Figure 16: *Picture postcard from Niš to Sofia, 16 May 1916, with an illegible dated censor mark, probably of Niš.*



Figure 17: *Picture card from a military unit based at Gostivar to Sofia. Military cachet of the unit at Gara-Padalischte (rail station), which lies a little south of Gostivar, dated 6 June 1918. Ringless Tetovo censor datestamp of 7 June.*

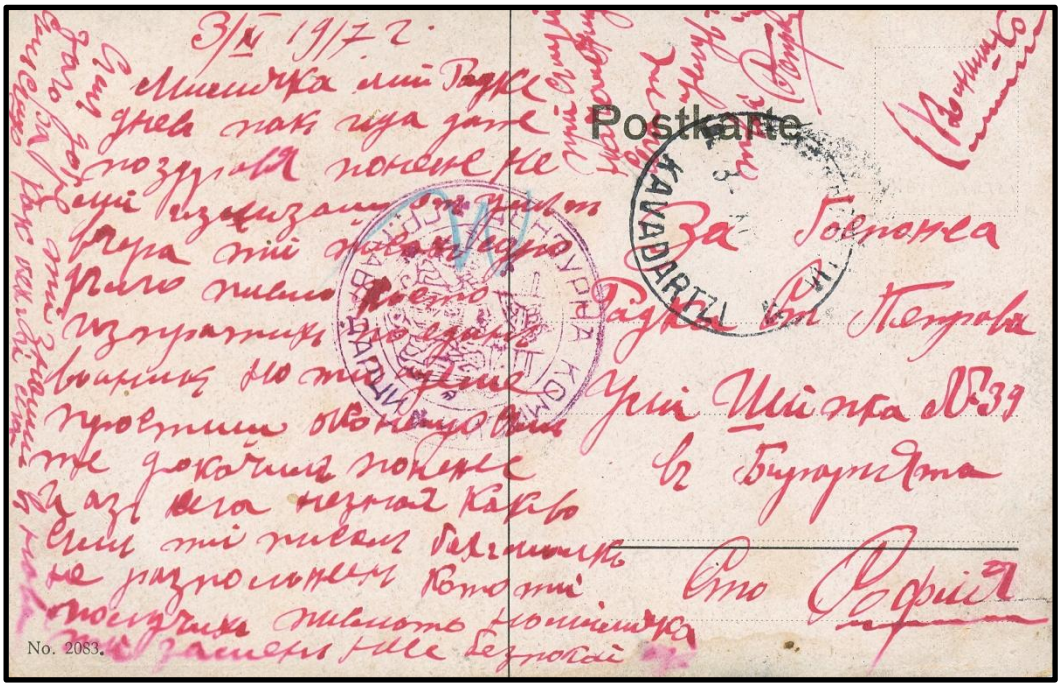


Figure 18: *Fieldpost card without unit cachet sent from Kavadarci to Sofia, small arms Gr. Kavadarci censor mark.*

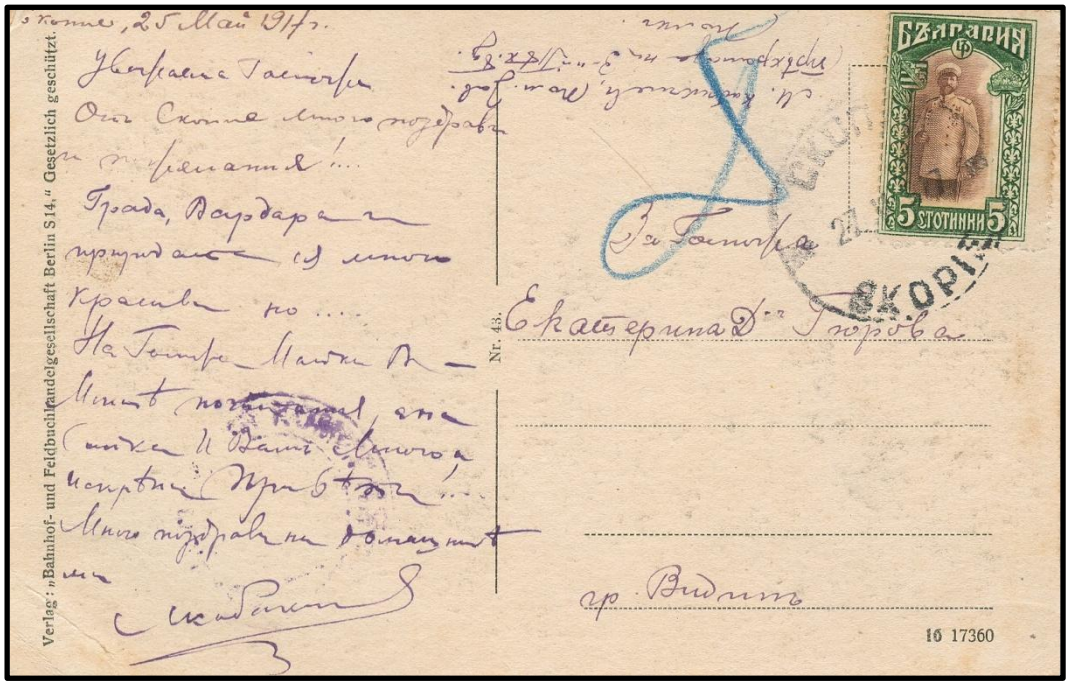


Figure 19: *Picture postcard sent from Skopje to Vidin, Bulgaria, censored in Skopje with the blank double-ring censor mark in violet.*

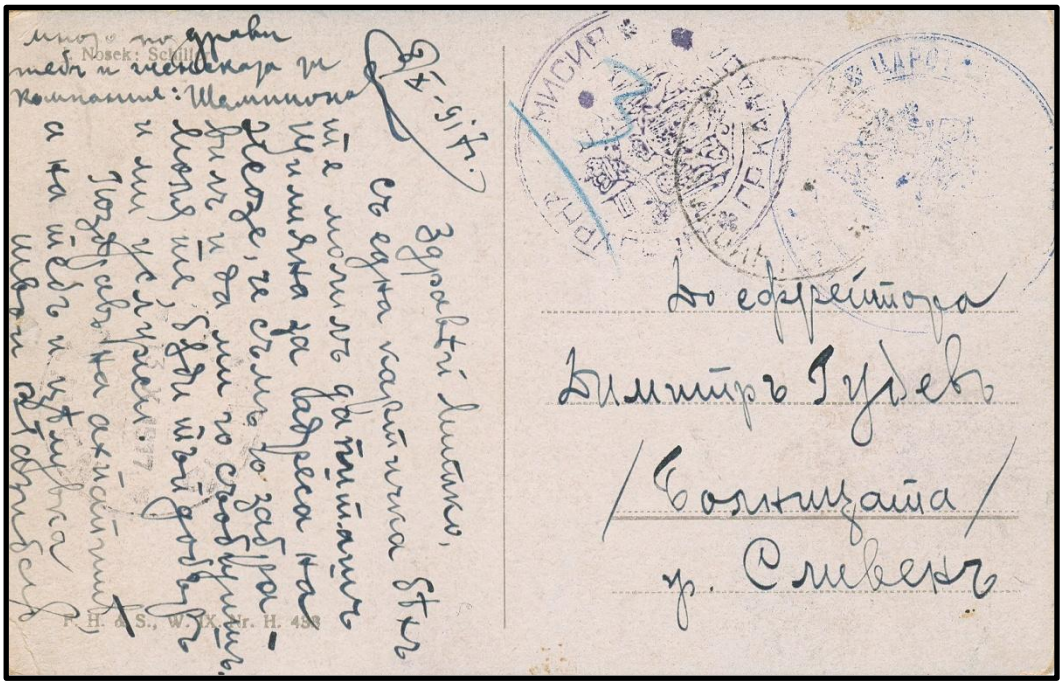


Figure 20: *Unfranked fieldpost mail to Sliven in Bulgaria, written on 8 October 1917, censored in Gr. Kavardci, with a blue military unit cachet and an indistinct postmark, believed to be Kavardci.*



Figure 21: *Bulgarian 5 stot postal stationery card on very thin stock, no postmark but large arms censor mark of Popovo, addressed to Tatar Pazardjik, Bulgaria.*



Figure 22: *Bulgarian postal stationery card written in Turkish, with the address in Cyrillic (different hand), sent from Prizren (11?.V.917) to Choumen, Bulgaria; Prizren large arms censor cachet.*

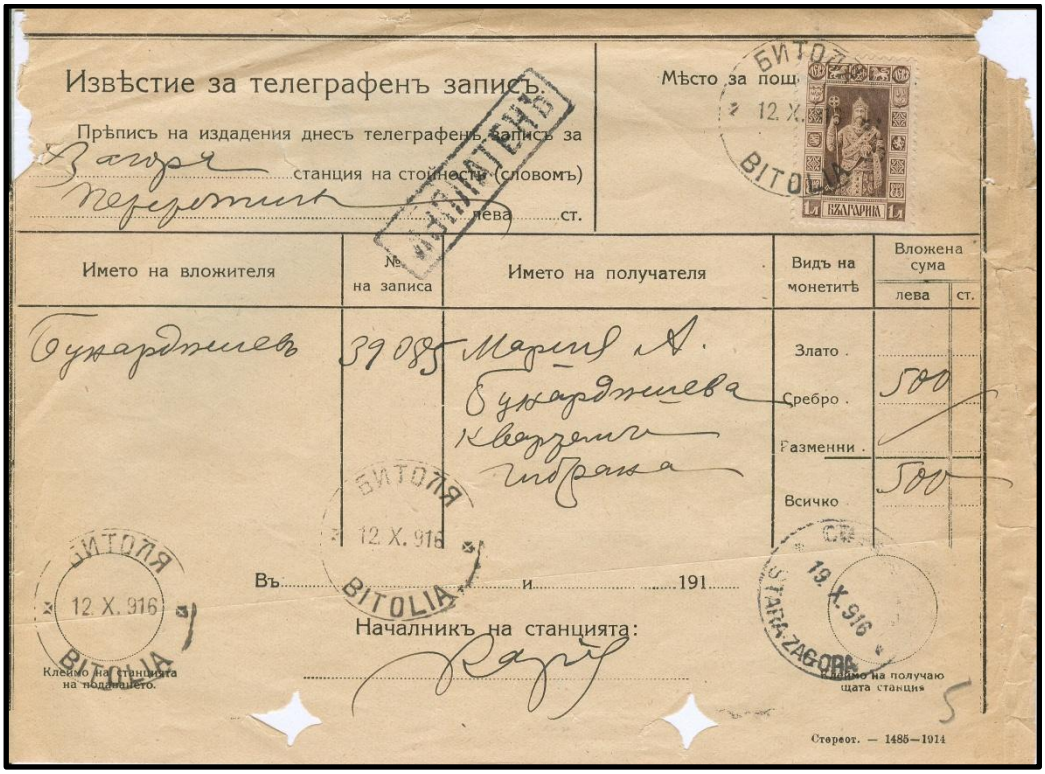


Figure 23: *Telegraphic money order form filled out at Bitolja (two different datestamps) for 500 leva to be sent to Stara Zagora in Bulgaria on 12 October 1916, fee 1 leva. Counterstamped at Stara Zagora on 19 October. The boxed mark reading 'ИЗПЛАТЕНЬ' means 'payment'. (Note: After a telegram was sent authorising immediate payment of the money, the telegraphic money order form would have been sent by post to the paying-out office where it would be reconciled with the received telegram.)*

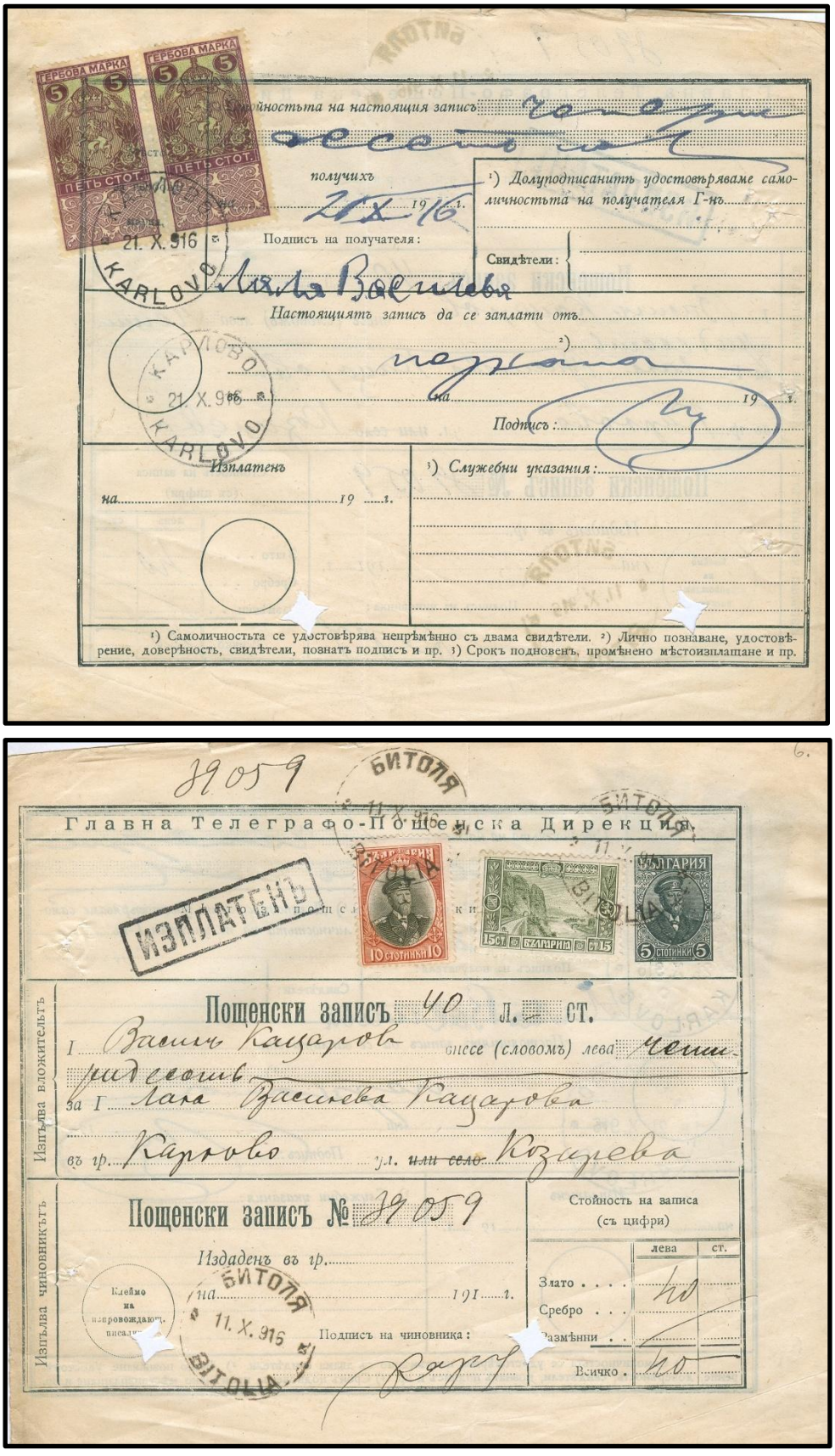


Figure 24: *Ordinary money order with a 5 stot. imprint filled out at Bitolja on 11 October 1916 to send 40 leva to Karlovo in Bulgaria. Additional charge 25 stot. Encashed at Karlovo on 21 October 1916, with 10 stot charge paid, using fiscal stamps on the rear. (The front side of this item appeared in reference [1]).*

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10. Reported in the New York Times, 17 May 1932: https://www.nytimes.com/1932/05/17/archives/d-michailoff-slain-by-sofia-assassins-killing-of-protogueroffist.html

To be continued.

Report of a YSG meeting held using Zoom at 17:00 on 3 November 2021

by Nick Coverdale

This was the fourth Zoom meeting held by YSG in 2021, with about 15 participants (9 from the UK and 6 from the USA and Europe). On this occasion, there were 4 presentations:

1. Nick Coverdale: Serbia Vojvodina partisan mail 1944 and 1945
2. Rex Dixon: Marburg post offices – postal history during the German occupation of Slovenia WW2
3. Richard Stevens: Revenue stamps of the Austrian occupation of Montenegro
4. Roger Morrell: Fieldpost of the Macedonian front 1915 – 18.

Once again, there was some interesting discussion and some offers of presentations at a future meeting were made. Another meeting is planned for the first quarter of 2022 and details can be found elsewhere in this edition.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Ljubljana Fair

by Boštjan Petauer FRPSL

The Ljubljana Fair is a former exhibition space in the area of today's Tivoli Park, which existed between 1921 and 1955. It was the first and thus the oldest institution of its kind in the then Kingdom of Yugoslavia.



Figure 1: King Alexander I during the opening of the Ljubljana Fair

In the triangular area between Gosposvetska and Latterman alley (or today's western wall of the Ilirija baths, Celovaška cesta and Tivoli Park), the Ljubljana Fair was built in 1921. The exhibition pavilions were designed in 1920/21 by the architect Josip Costaperaria. By the autumn of 1921, five larger and about twenty smaller pavilions had been built. The first year, the fair thus covered about 25000 square feet in area, and then the following year the city leased another 13000 square feet along the other side of Latterman Alley; on the new surface Costaperaria set up two large pavilions, a restaurant pavilion and a wine shop. In 1925, the National Hygiene Institute in Ljubljana set up a hygiene exhibition in one of these two pavilions, which existed until 1932, when the pavilion was struck by lightning and burned down. In 1930, two new large pavilions were built, bringing their number to ten; they were the first pavilions that were not temporary, but also used concrete and cement in the construction.



Figure 2: Picture of the Ljubljana Fair (taken between 1921 and 1941). The owner of the postcard is Milena Žniderščič

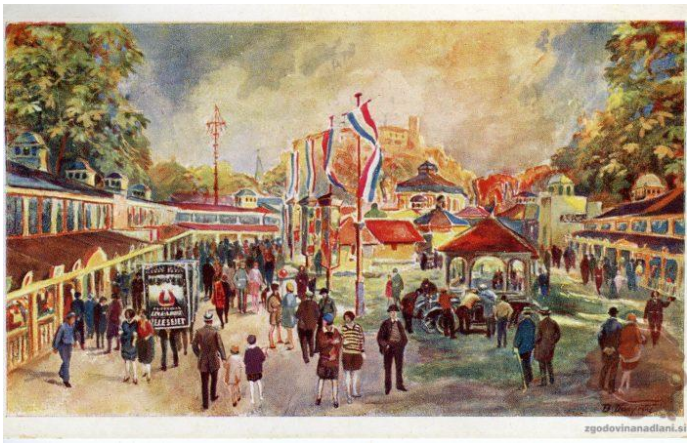


Figure 3: Picture of the Ljubljana Fair (taken in 1929). The owner of the photo is also Milena Žniderščič

In 1939, Vinko Glanz drew up a plan for the sustainable enlargement of the fairgrounds. The plans were not realised due to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1941. Before the Second World War, several fairs were organised here: such as Ljubljana International Fair or several exhibitions: international exhibition of radio and telecommunications, art exhibition at the Ljubljana Fair, Slovenian modern art, exhibition of Slovenian journalism, international exhibition of art photography, and so on. During the war the space was occupied by occupation soldiers (firstly Italians, then Germans) and a barracks and the quartermaster's service for the Ljubljana garrison. On 11 November 1944, the military complex was attacked by Allied planes, destroying an oil depot.

In 1955, the Ljubljana Fair moved from Šiška to today's Gospodarsko razstavišče.



Figure 4: Complete set of the First Joint Yugoslav Edition, cancelled with the Fair Cancel

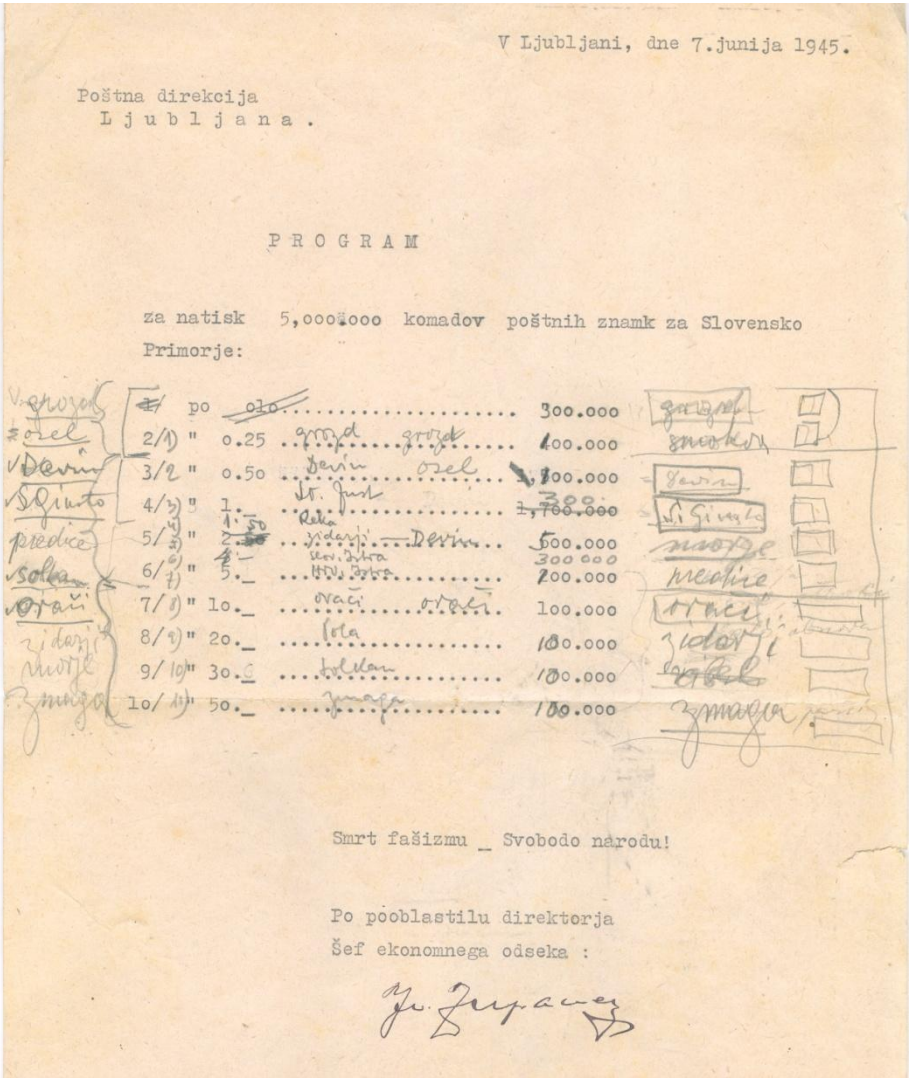
Literature and sources

1. Priručnik maraka jugoslavenskih zemalja. Joint issues of former Yugoslavia Zvezak 9, Filatelistički Savez Hrvatske, Zagreb 1951
2. Websites
3. Private collection

Miroslav Oražem, author of the first stamps for the Slovenian Litoral and Istria in 1945

by Dr. Veselko Guštin

Miroslav Oražem, 13.3.1900 – 23.7.1975: student, painter, graphic artist, sculptor and architect. He graduated in 1927 from the Department of Architecture of TF (Technical Faculty) in Ljubljana (by Jože Plečnik). While studying, he worked with sculptor A Arhipeng in Berlin from 1929 to 1930 and he met Le Corbusier in Paris. Between the years 1934 – 1950, he taught in the Ljubljana Technical School. He was drawn to avant-garde artistic tendencies, initially constructivism and cubism. To the public he presented himself for the first time in 1924 with the statue of "Torzo" at the Ljubljana Youth Club exhibition. He showed up again in 1953 at the exhibition of the Ljubljana Society of Decorative Arts with the already abstract garden plastic under the influence of H. Arp and H. Moor. He also worked in architecture, interiors and applied arts. (From the encyclopaedia of Slovenia, 1994).



V Ljubljani, dne 7.junija 1945.

Poštna direkcija
L j u b l j a n a .

P R O G R A M

za natisk 5,000.000 komadov poštnih znamk za Slovensko Primorje:

	po	.....	300.000
2/1)	"	0.25	400.000
3/2	"	0.50	500.000
4/3)	"	1._	1,700.000
5/4)	"	2._	500.000
6/6)	"	5._	200.000
7/8)	"	10._	100.000
8/9)	"	20._	100.000
9/10)	"	30._	100.000
10/11)	"	50._	100.000

Smrt fašizmu _ Svobodo narodu!

Po pooblastilu direktorja
Šef ekonomnega odseka :

Figure 1: Letter of 7 June 1945 from the postal administration in Ljubljana to Oražem

Miroslav Oražem was the designer of the first stamps of the Slovenian Littoral and Istria. The Slovenian Littoral and Istria experienced a real philatelic boom when, for the first time, they could read the Slovenian or Croatian words. The stamps with motifs of places and costumes with the bilingual inscription "Istra / Slovensko Primorje – Istria / Slovenian Littoral" arrived at the post offices on 15 August 1945. These were the "Chainbreakers" of the Slovenian Litoral and Istria in 1945 by M Oražem.

The stamps were printed in the Ljudska pravica printing office in Ljubljana. The designs were provided by Miroslav Oražem. The following editions have been printed with modified colours and values in Zagreb and Belgrade. Subsequently, the Yugoslav stamps were used for the entire territory of Zone B of "Julian Venetia" with overprinting in three lines "Vojna uprava / Jugoslovenske / armije" (in English "Military administration of the Yugoslav army"). By 15 September 1947, 108 provisional, regular and revenue stamps were used. All values were in Yugoslav lire.

The letter shown in Figure 1 dated 7 June 1945 from the Ljubljana Postal Administration informed the typography and the designer (M Oražem) of the requirement of 5 million stamps in Yugoslav lire to be produced for the Slovenian Litoral and Istria. The typed text was repeatedly corrected by Oražem himself – the names of the stamps, the size and the quantity issued. The basic proposal covered 10 stamps. With the first correction of two added and one cancelled, there were 11 stamps in total. The issue was expected in the coming days.

As we know, the events in 1945 took place differently. The "victory" / zmaga stamp of 50 lire (see Figure 2) was not issued. As there was no annexation planned for Trieste, the stamp shown in Figure 3 of 1 lira San Giusto / Sv. Just (Trieste) is today known only as "not issued" in brown and red, cut or perforated. The letter was sent before the Yugoslav army had to withdraw to the Morgan line on 12 June 1945.



Figure 2: Oražem original drawing "victory" of the 50 lire stamp, not issued



Figure 3: original drawing of the stamp of 1 lira Sv. Just (San Giusto, Trieste), not issued

The total quantity of issued stamps was not more than 5 million stamps, but less. Apparently, the author felt that these numbers were too high. If we look in the catalogue **Tergeste, catalogo special, A Bornstein, Trieste, 1949 – 50** we can see that the total quantity of stamps is even lower. This is because a significant number of stamps were used to overprint with new face values and with "PORTO" for use as revenue stamps.

The first four stamps were issued after two months, i.e. 15 August 1945. We can see from Figure 4 that the final set of ten stamps is slightly different from the first version.

The story of two 'tt' is also interesting. All stamps issued have the word "littoral" written with two 'tt'. Apparently the error was only corrected with the essays of San Giusto, Trieste for 1 lira, where "litoral" is spelt correctly (see Figure 4).

The final set with the bilingual writing (Italian, Slovenian and Croatian) is shown below in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Final series designed by Oražem for the Slovenian coast and Istria, 1945

Miroslav Oražem, the legacy: this includes a folder of drawings with a series of sketches of all the stamps and some drawings of them. These include those that have not been issued (1 lira San Giusto, Trieste, 50 lire "victory"). The author made more than 20 drawings and 100 sketches.

On 11 July 2020, the Slovenian Post issued a special commemorative stamp to celebrate 75 years of the first Slovenian stamps for the Slovene Litoral and Istria.

Question from Jean Lafortune, Canada

Contributions from Robert Lauer, Boštjan Petauer, Derek Brinkley – edited by Nick Coverdale

On 9 August 2021, a question was received by email from Jean Lafortune

I have tried without success to find an answer to 2 questions relating to the issues of Bosnia (SG Nos 1 to 52), Croatia (SG Nos 53 to N97) and Slovenia (SG Nos 97 to 163f) issued between 1918 and 1920.

Nobody could ever answer me, but I trust that some specialist in your group will know the answers. My two questions relate to the postal validity of the issues of the 3 regions during these years.

In South Africa, there was a period called the "interprovincial" period where the stamps of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and Orange River Colony could be used.

1. In the case of the 3 regions of what later became the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, could the issues of each region be used in the other 2 regions, or even in Serbia, before the appearance of the common issues in 1921? In other words, were they postally valid in the other regions?
2. Were they ever sold in one of the other regions in any official way?

Two apparently simple questions but I have never read anything dealing with these questions. Perhaps an expert person in your group would know? Thank you very much in advance for your help.

Derek Brinkley provided some extracts to Jean from articles by Helmut Kobelbauer and Andy Waters.

Boštjan Petauer provided the following:

1. Chainbreakers (Slovenian issues) could be used throughout the part of Yugoslavia that used to belong to the Austro-Hungarian Empire before WWI (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Vojvodina, Dalmatia) and even in Austria (Carinthia) during two Yugoslav occupations in 1919 and 1920. Until the end of June 1919 these regions had different postal rates, inherited from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Croatian issues were only used in Croatia. Bosnian issues were used in Bosnia and Croatia. I do not know whether they were officially sold in Croatia. A lot of postal documents exist with mixed frankings – two or three issues. Some combinations are very rare. All the above issues ceased to remain valid soon after the first common Yugoslav issue in 1921. Those issues could not have been used in Serbia and Montenegro. A few examples of the use of Serbian stamps are known used in Slovenia (they passed without problems) but they are very rare.
2. As above, otherwise not.

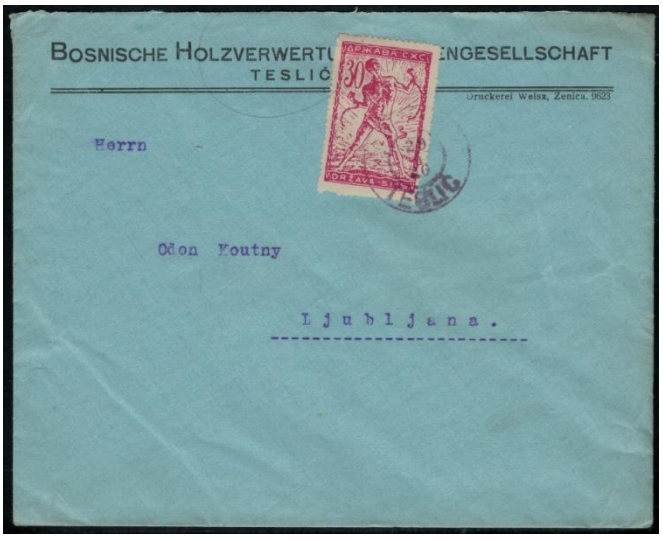
Robert Lauer provided the following:

I just wanted to add a couple of things to the reply from Boštjan Petauer.

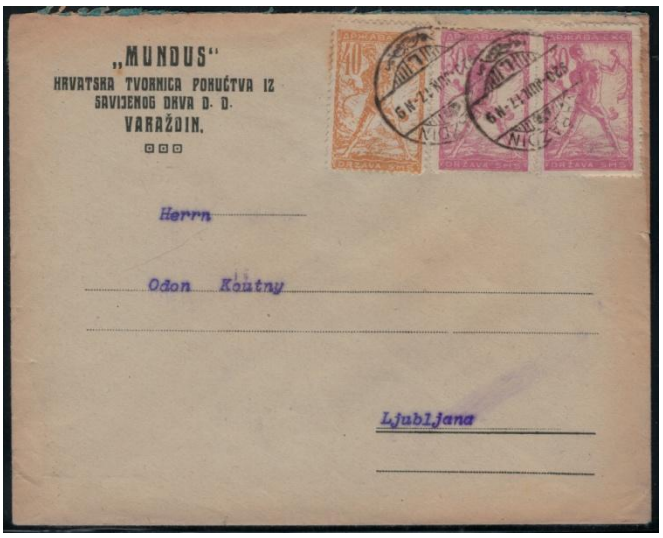
As the local issues for Bosnia and Herzegovina (SG Nos 1 – 52) and Croatia (SG nos 53 – N97) were used up, the post offices in these jurisdictions were supplied with the stamps of the local issues of Slovenia (SG Nos 97 – N173). Similarly, when supplies of Hungarian stamps were exhausted in Syrmia and the Serbian Banat (the southern part of the old Kingdom of Hungary), these post offices too were supplied with these Slovenian stamps.

The Slovenian stamps that were denominated in Vinar/Krona (SG Nos 97 – N158B) were technically valid until 1 October 1920, though in practice they remained in use until the old Austro-Hungarian currencies were invalidated on 15 April 1921. The Slovenian stamps denominated in Para/Dinar (SG Nos 150 – 163f) were withdrawn in October 1921 though, again, one can find them used for postage until the middle of 1922. As a result, it is not uncommon to find mixed frankings of these Slovenian stamps with the first general issue of the SHS Kingdom from January 1921.

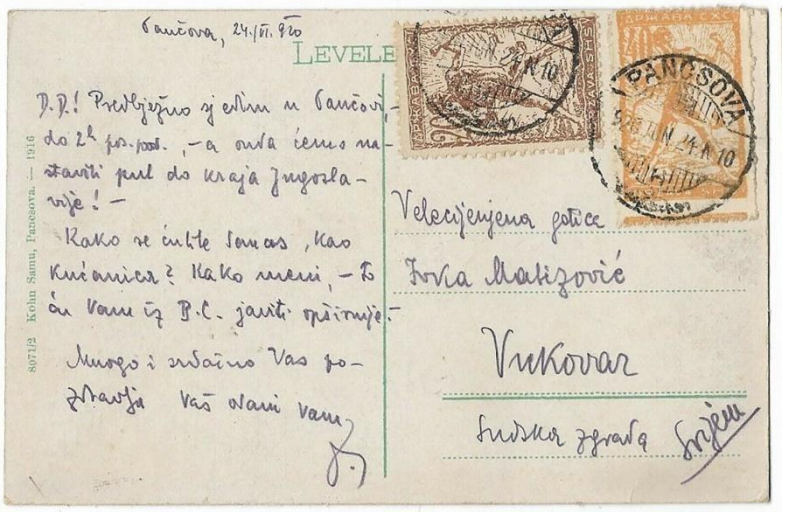
Here are three examples:



A commercial letter from Teslić in Bosnia to Ljubljana in Slovenia cancelled 29 April 1920



A commercial letter from Varaždin in Croatia to Ljubljana in Slovenia cancelled 24 June 1920



A postcard from Pancsova in the Serbian Banat to Vukovar in Croatia cancelled 24 June 1920

Yugoslavia Study Group

are holding a Zoom meeting

on

Wednesday 2 March at 17:00 hours, UK time

est with Nick Coverdale on
and joining details will be sent
the time

Some presentations have already been offered but there is room for more. Presentations should be planned to take no more than about 10 minutes to deliver please

Two covers from Bačka towards the end of WW2

by Nick Coverdale

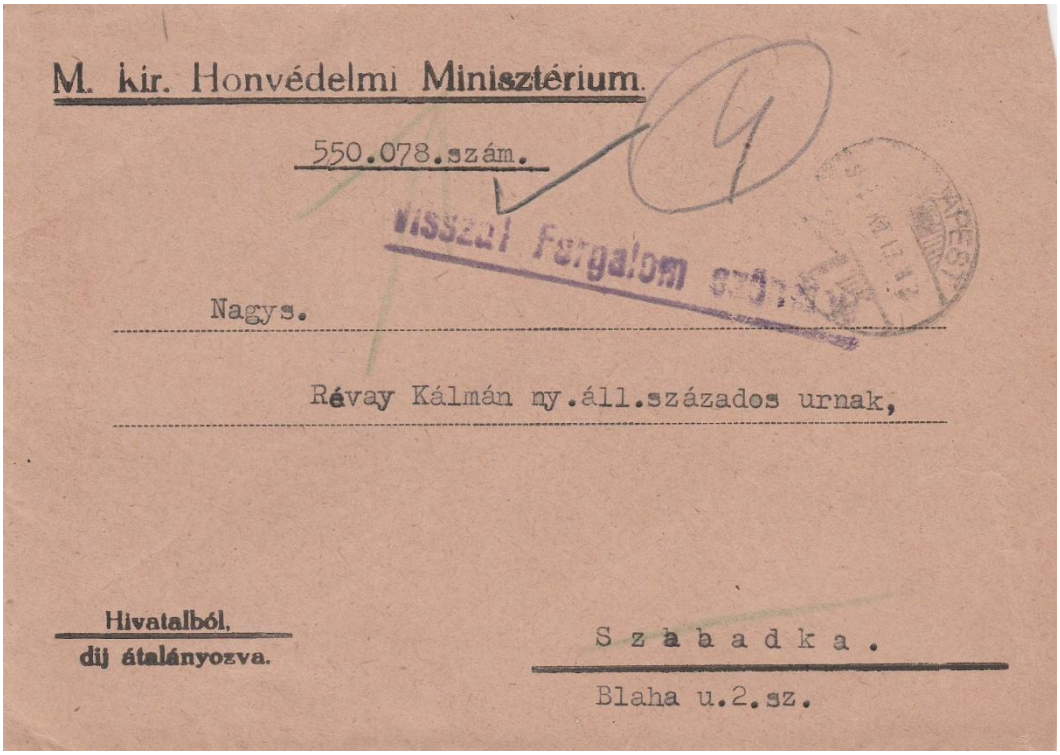
Background

This information is mainly sourced from Wikipedia. Bačka was occupied in April 1941 by the Axis powers and attached to Hungary. According to a 1941 Hungarian census, Bačka had a population of slightly less than 800,000 and in the region of 45 – 50% of these were Hungarian speakers.

During 21 – 28 January 1942, units of the Hungarian army undertook to 'cleanse' part of Bačka, including Novi Sad, of communist insurgents. Accounts differ, but it seems that up to 4000 civilians were killed, most of whom were not insurgents.

On 17 October 1944, Bačka was placed under partisan military government. Again, estimates differ, but many thousands of ethnic Germans and Hungarians were subsequently executed or died of maltreatment in camps.

I include the information above to set the scene during the time in which the following 2 covers were posted.



Official cover from a Government Ministry in Budapest to Szabadka (Subotica) with an unclear Budapest cancel but it is reasonable to assume that it arrived around or after 17 October 1944 as it was returned to Budapest with the cachet 'Vissza Forgalom szünetel' (return, service suspended)



Cover sent from Novi Sad to Mitrovica, dated 9 December 1944 (from intact contents). It appears to be a civilian letter carried by partisan military mail. Postmark and military censor cachet from Novi Sad (censor cachet also appears on the contents). Hungarian resealing tape has been used. Rough date stamp across the postmark and resealing tape of 8.1.45, presumably the arrival date in Mitrovica.



Part of the reverse of the above cover showing resealing tape with a partial Hungarian inscription

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